

# SANDWELL CULTURAL FORUM

## May 2025 Newsletter



### Call for Artists!

Call Out for Artist Educators  
YAM FROM HERE are looking for artist educators who would be interested in helping to facilitate workshops as part of the Yam from Here project.

Application: **Please contact**  
**[piotr.kardynal@ewacic.com](mailto:piotr.kardynal@ewacic.com) or**  
**[luccadivirgilio@ewacic.com](mailto:luccadivirgilio@ewacic.com) by May 23rd**  
**to register interest and request the**  
**application form.**

Artists will receive £350 per 4-hour workshop (VAT and travel compensation included).

### THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MEMBER IS... BIG BEAR MUSIC GROUP



Big Bear Music Group is probably the longest established independent record company in the UK and has been at the forefront of Jazz, Swing and Blues since 1968, with over 100 album releases in that time.

Since 1985, Big Bear Music has organised the annual Birmingham Jazz & Blues Festival. Europe's biggest free admission jazz party, every July the festival brings bands from across the globe to over 200 venues across the West Midlands including Sandwell!

[Find out more about Big Bear Music Group here](#)



## Stallholders Wanted

The Council's Shape Team have extended the application for stallholders to apply for a stall at the upcoming SHAPE FEST happening this July. Deadline is Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 5pm.

Email Stacey for the Application Form.

**Next meeting date:**

**July - Stay Tuned!**

**Instead of a meeting, there may be a summer outing planned!**

**"The purpose of art is to make the invisible visible."**

**Paul Klee**

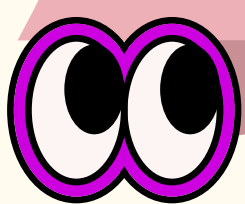


## Opportunities and Survey Request from Chance Heritage Trust

At Chance Heritage Trust, we are working to realise our vision of revitalising the Victorian Glassworks located on Spon Lane, Smethwick. The building embodies the legacy of the Chance Brothers, innovative pioneers who supplied glass for notable landmarks such as the Crystal Palace and Big Ben and collaborated with designers to create iconic glassware.

Our goal is to offer affordable creative studio and makerspace options while integrating with the network of creative hubs in the Black Country. Please click on our survey to let us know what you would like <https://bit.ly/42CTgid>

We are keen to collaborate, provide resources and promote the rich diverse heritage within Smethwick and Sandwell today. Please contact [jane.deweijer@chanceht.org](mailto:jane.deweijer@chanceht.org) if you would like to discuss opportunities!



## Two New Community Spaces at Midlands Met Are Now Open!

On 8 April the High Sheriff West Midlands and Chair of Your City and Metropolitan Hospitals Charity officially opened Midland Met's two new exciting community spaces:

**The Commons:** the hospital's very own community garden, designed and built by, neurodiverse arts company, Spectra with and for local people. It features an array of creative installations, resting places, biodiversity and sensory-enriching planting.

**The People's Gallery:** a unique adaptable gallery, spanning the length of the Winter Gardens. The opening exhibition features artworks by patients, staff and local residents working with local arts organisations and artists.

Over 80 guests were invited to view the spaces whilst being infused by performances by Sandwell People's Orchestra Choir and live drawing by Artist, Saranjit Birdi.





## Job Opportunity

Spectra is seeking an Operations Lead. This is a new core role in our organisation to ensure Spectra fulfills its aims through collaborative, strategic leadership. To develop and oversee Spectra's operations through the responsive, care-led, inclusive structuring and delivery of internal systems with particular focus on communications, HR and finances.

Salary: £33,827 per year pro rata x .8 role (4 days per week).

**DEADLINE: 9am, Mon 12 May 2025.**  
**[Apply here](#)**

### CALL OUT FOR EVENTS IN SANDWELL!

If you have an event in Sandwell, PLEASE add it to Visit Sandwell by clicking [here](#)!

We want more Sandwell events on Visit Sandwell - if you need any help with adding events, please contact Stacey!

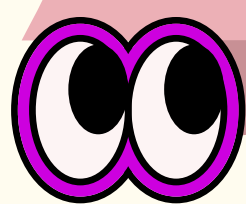
[A support video to add events on Visit Sandwell is here!](#)

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## Feature Events Listing



Click on the text below to find out more about the events and to book

### Sandwell Museums:

#### Haden Hill House

- Don't Go into The Cellar Theatre company presents, "What Ho Wodehouse" - Friday 16 May. 7pm, Award-winning actor and writer Jonathan Goodwin performs. Suitable for Adults & 12+ Booking Essential, £14 per ticket [Booking via Ticketsource](#)

#### Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery

- **Picnic and Piano** - Saturday 10 May 12pm-2pm. Join us for an afternoon of your favourite and popular classical hits and pieces from theatre and opera with our pianist Matt Goodwin. Book here.

#### Oak House Museum

- **Green Man Day** - Sunday 11 May 11:00-3:00pm. Celebrate with us at our annual Green Man event with historical music from Diabolus. [More details here.](#)

#### Bromwich Hall

- **Psychic Afternoon Tea** - Saturday 10 May, 2pm – 4pm. Enjoy an afternoon tea in our medieval Great Hall and chat with four psychics. Booking essential via the Friends of Bromwich Hall Eventbrite page. Tickets cost £25.00pp.

#### Galton Valley Pumping Station

- Galton Valley Pumping station is opened by our volunteers on the **2nd Saturday of the month from April to October 11am-3pm.**

### Sandwell Libraries:

- **[Latest brochure here!](#)** <-click here
- [Lots coming up, book via Ticketsource](#) <-click here

### Community Events:

- [The Art Yard - Portrait Group Session on Tuesday 13th May \(19-20 Upper St. Cradley Heath B64 5HX\). - 7.00pm and finishing at 9.00pm - £8.00. More details here.](#)

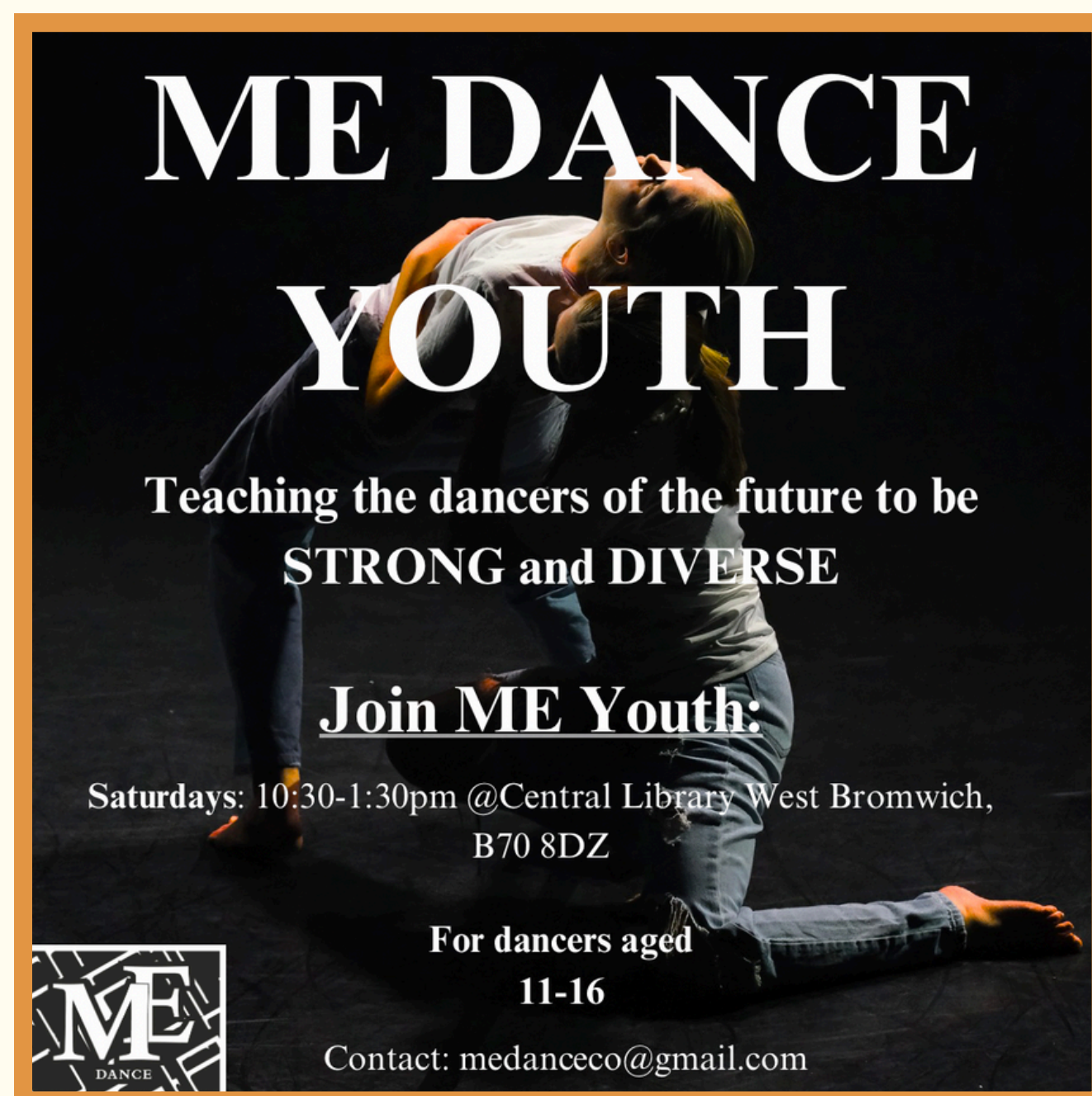




## Feature Events Listing



[Book Tickets Here](#)



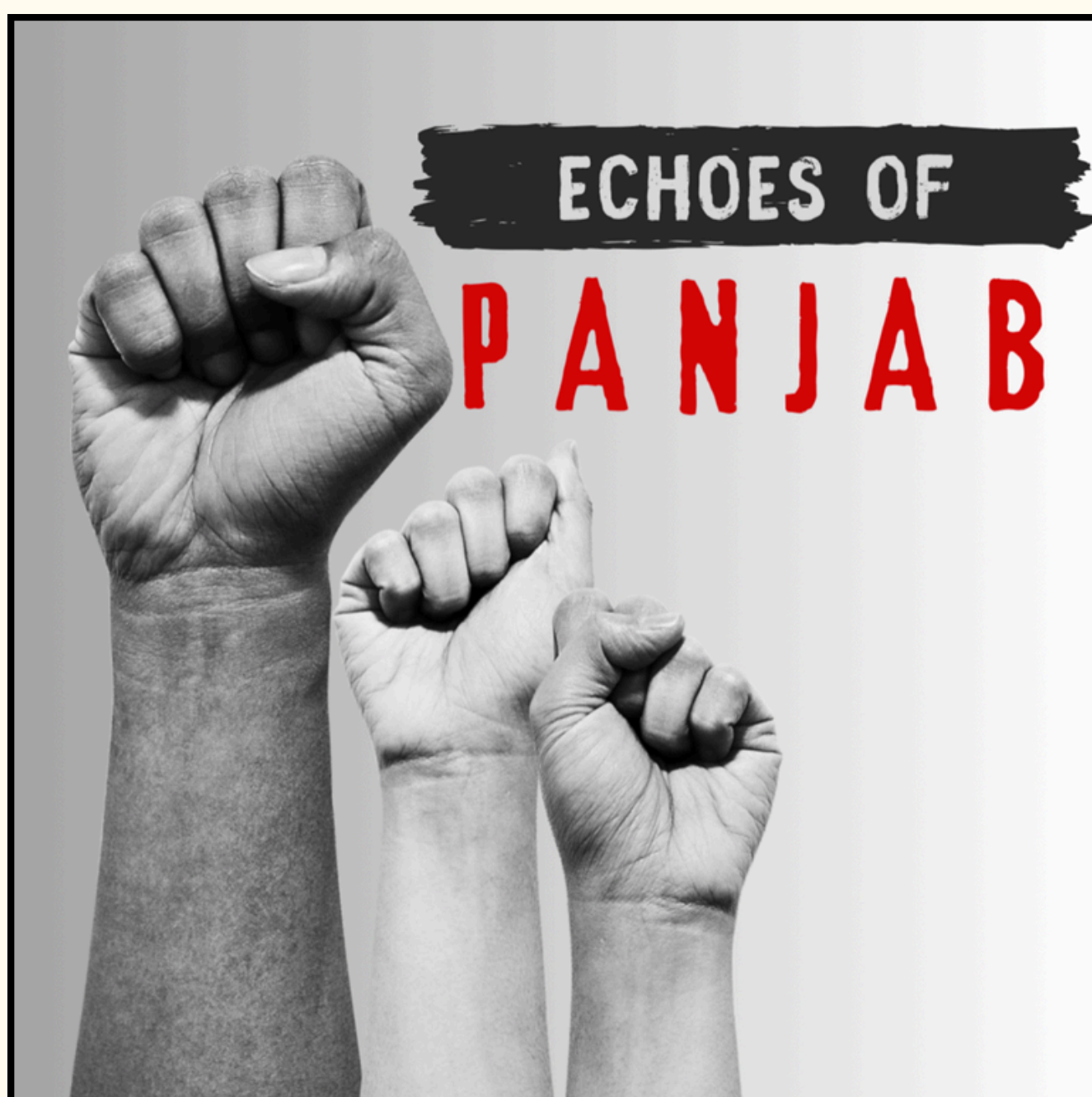
### Curl Girl's latest production Echoes of Panjab.

We're coming to the MAC on the 24th and 25th May and would love to see as many friendly face there as possible.

[You can book tickets here](#)

Funded by National Lottery Project Grants, Echoes of Panjab is inspired by testimonies of people that took part in the farmers protests at Singhu Border, Delhi and victims of Operation Blue Star 1984, Panjab. A moving story following a farming girl Jind and her mother Bebe, Echoes of Panjab takes a heartfelt look at the experience of the farming community in Panjab and their fight for justice.

13th January 2021, Lohri Panjab's annual festival is being celebrated. This year however, the ritual of throwing jaggery and monkey nuts into an open fire is instead replaced by burning the New Farm Law charter PM Modi has recently approved. The farmers are angry. Follow the story of Jind, a farming girl who leaves her village in Mohali, Panjab to find her truth and fight for justice on the frontline.







Join the Sandwell Cultural Forum

# NOW



**Do you know someone who wants  
to join the Sandwell Forum?**

**Email Stacey via:  
stacey\_bagdi@sandwell.gov.uk**



## **Talking About The Fire by China Plate and Staatstheater Mainz**

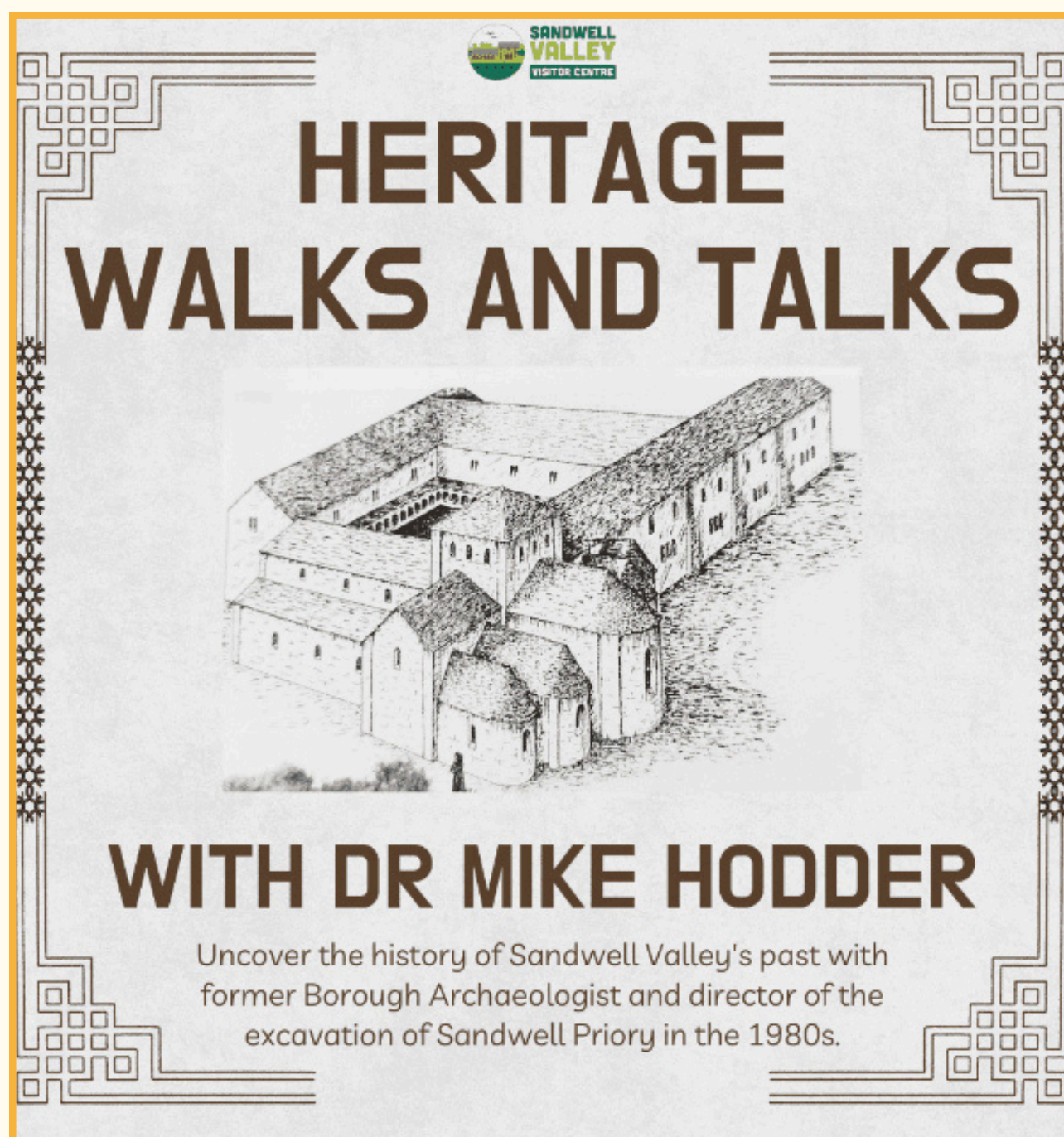
Nuclear weapons could destroy us all, right now - so why aren't we talking about them?  
Sometimes the threat slides into view - Russia invades Ukraine - but that doesn't make the weapons more dangerous. They're always dangerous. And one day, deliberately or accidentally, they'll be used again.  
From the team that created the award-winning Status and Confirmation, comes a show about a new nuclear weapons treaty - one that's trying to give the power to eliminate nuclear weapons to the states, and people, who don't possess them.

Monday 12th May 2025 at 7pm  
Tipton Library, Carnegie Building, Victoria Road, Tipton, DY4 8SR

**FREE to attend, suitable for ages 14+**

BOOK NOW: [www.bctouring.org.uk/talking-about-the-fire](http://www.bctouring.org.uk/talking-about-the-fire)





Join us for Dr Mike Hodder's illustrated walks and talks about the archaeology and history of Sandwell Priory and its relationship to other parts of medieval West Bromwich, including Bromwich Hall and All Saints' church. Coffee and Tea will be provided by our Tea Rooms.

Heritage Talks:  
 Sunday 1st June 2025  
 Sunday 3rd August 2025

Heritage Walks:  
 Saturday 10th May 2025  
 Saturday 12th July 2025

Heritage Open Day Walk - FREE  
 Thursday 18th September 2025

Event Details  
 From 11:00AM to 12:30PM

Location  
 Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre (formerly Sandwell Park Farm), West Bromwich, B71 4BG

[More information and to book click here](#)

#### TAI CHI EVERY TUESDAY - 11.30AM - 12.30PM



Join us for a rejuvenating Tai Chi class that blends movement, meditation, and mindfulness. Tai Chi aims to help you relax, reduce tension, and improve your overall well-being with gentle movement, physical postures and controlled breathing.

No experience is necessary - we advise you wear comfortable clothing and be ready to move at your own pace.

Follow our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) page for latest class updates.

Event Details  
 From 11:30AM to 12:30PM

Location  
 Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre (formerly Sandwell Park Farm), West Bromwich, B71 4BG

[Book here](#)